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## *INTERNATIONAL LAW.*

In his preface to the third edition of Halls' International Law, dated August 1, 1889, the author said: "It would be idle to pretend that Europe is not now in great likelihood moving towards a time at which the strength of international law will be too hardly tried. Probably in the next great war the questions which were accumulated during the last half century or more will be given their answers at once. Some hates, moreover, will crave for satisfaction, much envy and greed will be at work, but above all, and at the bottom of all, will be the hard sense of necessity. Whole nations will be in the field; the commerce of the world may be on the sea to win or lose; national existence will be at stake; men will be tempted to do everything to shorten hostilities and tend to a decisive issue. Conduct in the next great war will certainly be hard; it is very doubtful if it will be scrupulous, whether on the part of the belligerents or neutrals, and most likely the next war will be great. But there can be very little doubt that if the next war is unscrupulously waged it will also be followed by a reaction towards increased stringency of law. In a community, as in an individual, passionate excess is followed by a reaction of lassitude and to some extent of conscience . . . It is a matter of experience that times in which international law has been seriously disregarded have been followed by periods in which the European conscience has done penance by putting itself under stricter obligations than those which it before acknowledged. There is no reason to suppose that things will be otherwise in future. I look forward, therefore, with much misgiving to the manner in which the next great war will be waged, but with no misgiving at all as to the character of